

Mountain Biking Opportunities and the Proposed Revised Forest Plan Wilderness Recommendation Process

Question: What is the wilderness recommendation process?

Answer: In short, during a forest plan revision, the Forest Service is legally required to update the inventory of roadless areas and evaluate those areas. The eventual outcome of the process will identify whether or not these roadless areas (called Potential Wilderness Areas) will be recommended to Congress for wilderness designation. For more background on this process refer to additional briefing papers posted on the forest plan revision website-- www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision) in the Reading Room under "Wilderness".

Question: How does the evaluation process work?

Answer: Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 70 provides detailed guidance for how to complete the evaluation process. The evaluation basically provides detailed answers to the following three questions.

- Is each area "capable" of being managed as wilderness if Congress were to act?
- Is each area "available" for wilderness considering all the benefits and tradeoffs (such as mountain biking)?
- How would each area benefit the National Wilderness Preservation System from a regional or national perspective?

Question: How can I learn more about the findings of the evaluation process?

Answer: Each potential wilderness area has its own written evaluation posted in the "Reading Room" on the forest plan revision website. For a specific discussion on mountain biking, look in the "availability" section of each evaluation under the "recreation" heading.

Question: So how did mountain biking factor into the availability part of the process?

Answer: Each recreational activity that uses a potential wilderness area is considered in the availability portion of the process. The approach was to first identify which activities make use of a potential wilderness area. Then each activity was analyzed at a regional scale based on a market zone concept to identify which locations within potential wilderness areas are of regional importance for a particular recreational activity.

Question: What do you mean by "market zone concept" and "regional importance"?

Answer: The market zone for each forest is comprised of the counties from which 80% of our visitors originate. This was determined using our National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) data. The market zone for the Colville National Forest includes Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties as well as those counties that comprise the greater Spokane area. The market zone for the Okanogan-Wenatchee includes Yakima, Kittitas, Chelan, and Okanogan Counties as well as Douglas County and the Greater Puget Sound area (Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties). To determine regional importance the next questions became, "for recreationists living in any of these counties, where are the primary places they go to engage in their sport," and "are there capacity issues for those sports" and "how do the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest contribute to these regionally important venues?" In general it was assumed that recreationists like to recreate near home, but will regularly travel up to 3 hours to pursue their sport of choice. We identified which locations within potential wilderness areas have moderate to high use for a given recreational activity.

Question: So how does all that apply to mountain biking?

Answer: To determine the answers to these questions we consulted multiple information sources such as mountain bike guide books, the internet, and visited with ranger district recreation staff and mountain bikers who shared what they know. Appendix A at the end of this document shows what we learned in detail. Trails or areas highlighted in ***bold italics*** are **not** proposed for a wilderness recommendation. Most popular mountain bike trails are not proposed for a wilderness recommendation. This includes such places as Devils Gulch, Kachess Ridge, Mad Lake, and the Sawtooth Backcountry. Places with mountain bike trails proposed for a wilderness recommendation include Rock Creek and Basalt Ridge (Wenatchee River Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF), Eightmile Ridge (Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF) portions of the Kettle Crest, and areas adjacent to the Salmo-Priest Wilderness (Republic, Three Rivers and Newport/Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts, Colville NF).

Question: Relative to mountain biking, what was the rationale for the areas proposed for a wilderness recommendation versus those areas not recommended?

Answer: Based on the analysis described above, we took the general approach that if an area was of regional importance to a certain sport that we generally would not include that area in a wilderness recommendation, unless there was a very strong argument that the area meets a high “need” for representing as wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Locations that received low levels of mountain biking were seen as reasonable areas to trade-off if the case for a wilderness recommendation is strong. Trails that lead directly into existing congressionally designated wilderness are one of the reasons areas were included in the proposal.

Question: In that vein, why is the Kettle Crest proposed for a wilderness recommendation?

Answer: Based on the “need” portion of the wilderness evaluation process, it became evident that there is a need for more designated wilderness on the Colville National Forest. This is for a number of reasons. Currently only 3 percent of the Colville National Forest is in congressionally designated wilderness (the Salmo-Priest Wilderness). From a market zone perspective, the greater Spokane area has very little designated wilderness within a reasonable drive. In fact, there are no wildernesses within a 2 hour drive. The only three wildernesses within a 3 hour drive include the Salmo-Priest, Juniper Dunes, and Wenaha-Tucannon. The designation of additional wilderness on the Colville National Forest would also contribute representations of the Okanogan-Highlands landform, various underrepresented vegetation types, and habitat for various species that benefit from the refugia provided by a wilderness setting. The Kettle Crest, the Abercrombie-Hooknose PWA, and the Salmo-Priest area provided the highest quality options of the various potential wilderness areas considered.

A couple adjustments were made to the proposal in order to accommodate mountain biking. The southern end of the Profanity PWA is excluded from the proposal due to a popular mountain bike loop ride. And the northern end of the Bald-Snow PWA is excluded from the proposal due primarily to a popular rental cabin, but secondarily because of the loop ride around White Mountain.

Question: Why is Rock Creek and Basalt Ridge proposed for a wilderness recommendation?

Answer: Rock Creek and Basalt Ridge Trails lead into the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The proposal to recommend these trails for wilderness designation would improve management of the primitive recreation setting. As a benefit, the area can provide refugia for wildlife.

Question: How can we tell in more detail which trails are proposed for a wilderness recommendation versus not?

Answer: The best way to look up a particular trail is to compare the forest recreation maps with the proposed action management area maps “with section lines”. These latter maps are on the plan revision website in the proposed action section, and the areas proposed for a wilderness recommendation are shown in red. You can then match up sections between maps. (Our apologies—adding roads and trails to the proposed management area maps would have made the file sizes too large to download.) An additional simplified map showing wilderness recommendations is located on the reading room portion of the plan revision website.

Question: Mountain biking is relatively low impact. Why are mountain bikes prohibited in congressionally designated wilderness?

Answer: This prohibition has nothing to do with the degree of physical impact. The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits certain uses that take away from the primitive wilderness setting. This is to provide a place where visitors can escape modern technology and experience the landscape similar to what early explorers first encountered. The framers of the Wilderness Act envisioned wilderness as a place where visitors could escape development and mechanization. The beginning of the Wilderness Act starts with a policy statement—

Sec. 2. (a) In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas the United States, and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.

The act goes on to define wilderness—

...An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which ... (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation...

Then the act goes on to address prohibited uses in order to support the policy and definition of wilderness.

...except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area) there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area. (Wilderness Act in Section 4(c) Prohibition of Certain Uses)

Question: What happens in the proposed action to the areas that were evaluated but not recommended for wilderness?

Answer: By definition, all of the areas that were evaluated are in roadless settings. Most of the areas that were not recommended are proposed for either a “Backcountry” or “Backcountry Motorized” management area. Some of the areas fall into other designations such as “Special Interest Areas” like the Nason Ridge Recreation Special Interest Area or the congressionally designated “North Cascades Scenic Highway” which is a scenic area. Some of the areas evaluated are in the Adaptive Management Area (Cle Elum Ranger District, Okanogan-Wenatchee NF).

Question: How else does the proposed revised forest plan address mountain biking?

Answer: Check out the “Access System” section of the proposal. In particular, the plan proposes to “upgrade or construct some trails to better accommodate mountain bike single-track use”. We are also proposing to increase trail miles on national forest close to nearby communities. The roadless areas not proposed for a wilderness recommendation are proposed for managing as “Backcountry” or “Backcountry Motorized” as shown on the management area map.

Question: How can I engage with the forest plan revision process?

Answer: Please send us your written comments by September 28, 2011 which is the end of our official scoping period. You can send a letter or email us at r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us. Please be very specific about what you like and don't like about our proposed action including specific places with which you have an interest and what you would do differently. Comments will be used to formulate a suite of alternatives in a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS). The DEIS will be available for public comment about a year from now.

Please visit the project website for more information:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee/forest-plan or contact Debbie Kelly, Public Affairs Lead with the Forest Plan Revision Team at 509-826-3275, Okanogan Valley Office, 1240 Second Ave. South, Okanogan, WA 98840

Appendix A

Analysis of Mountain Bike Use Relative to Potential Wilderness Areas on the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

(**Note:** trails or areas in the planning area shown in *bold italics* are not proposed for a wilderness recommendation as part of the proposed forest plan revision. Other areas may have a partial recommendation.)

Mountain Bike Use

Use trends suggest that mountain bike use on Forest trails is stable or increasing as shown on Table 1 in this analysis. Currently 8.8 percent of Washington State residents mountain bike (refer to Table 2). The trail systems on the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests generally predate the advent of mountain biking as a sport.

Table 1--National trends in mountain biking participation

Activity	Projection: 1994-95 NSRE	Recent Trends			
		1994 NSRE	OIF	RoperASW	SGMA
Mountain biking	slight increase	slight decrease	Fluctuating, overall stable	stable	stable

Sources: (cited in Hall and others, 2009)

1994 NSRE (National Survey on Recreation and the Environment) data is from Bowker and others, 1999.

OIF is from the Outdoor Industry Foundation (2005).

RoperASW is from the 2004 Roper Study.

SGMA is from the 2003 Report of the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association.

In a similar analysis, the National Survey of Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) shows participation by activity based on activities. Participation is based on the Pacific Coast; California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska (Cordell, 1999). Figure 1 shows NSRE findings for the Pacific Coast comparing participation rates in outdoor recreation. In his more recent work Cordell notes that recreation participation in Pacific Coast states is comparable to the rest of the nation, with the exception of primitive camping and backpacking which are notably more popular (Cordell and others, 2004).

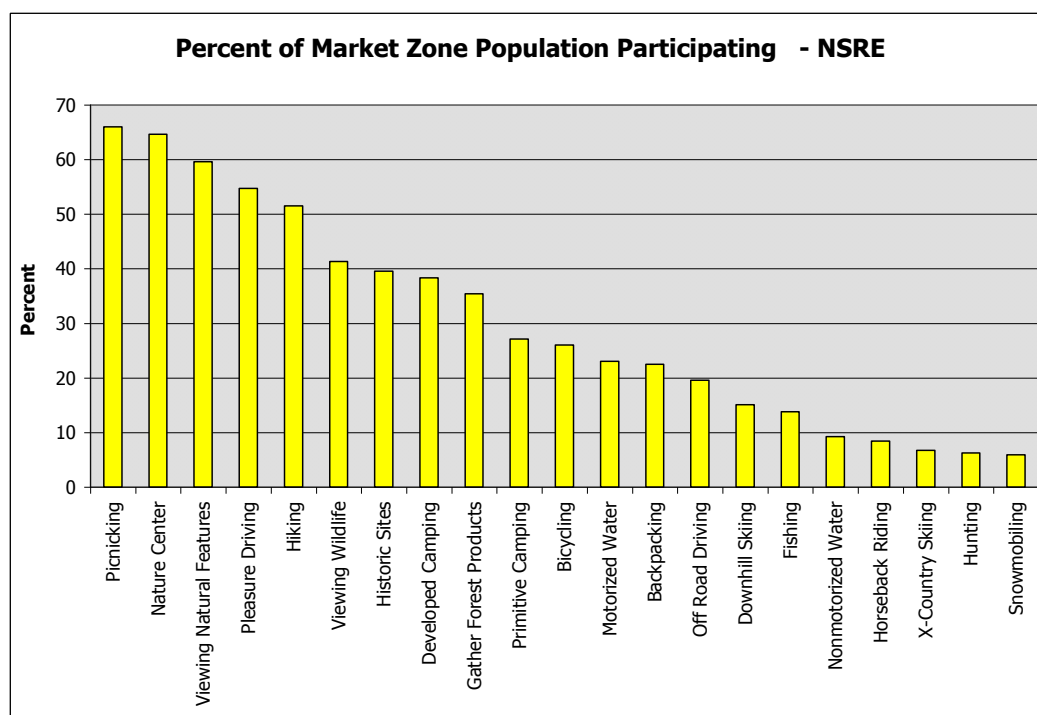


Figure 1--Outdoor recreation participation rates for the Pacific Coast states

Two main data sources identify a relative breakdown of public participation in outdoor recreational activities more specific to our planning unit. The state completed outdoor recreation surveys in 2006 based on a telephone survey of Washington State residents. Between 2004 and 2006, the Forest Service completed National Visitor Use Monitoring Surveys for the planning area Forests that sampled a variety of factors including activities in which parties were engaged and the primary purpose of each respondent's visit.

Table 2 displays bicycling as a primary recreational activity for unroaded areas, the percent participation by Washington State residents as a whole, and notes any demographic differences in user types. Note that each of these activities occurs in a wide variety of settings with National Forest Potential Wilderness Areas offering one of many possibilities.

Table 2--Percent participation of Washington State residents in bicycling on a mountain or forest trail

Activity Type	2006 Survey Percent Participation	Demographic Differences between Users (2006 survey)
Bicycling on a mountain or forest trail	8.8% (552,331 people)	No significant difference

From: 2006 Outdoor Recreation Survey Final Report, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office, 2007

Most of the non-wilderness trails on the Forest are open to mountain bike use, but not all trails are attractive to mountain bikers for a variety of reasons. While mountain biking probably occurs with at least low levels of use on all trails open to this use, relatively few trail systems have enough appeal to support moderate to high use levels or attract non-local use. Mountain bikers tend to look for trails with a nice flow where the difficulty level is sustained rather than continuously changing. Akin to other activities, a variety of difficulty levels are sought as riders transition from beginning rides to those requiring a high degree of skill. A typical outing for advanced riders may be up to 30 miles, but most seek shorter distances. Akin to other trail users, mountain bikers strongly

prefer loop opportunities. Loops are often made by riding up an unpaved road, and riding down a single-track trail. Sometimes riders skip the uphill leg by using car shuttles. Much of the thrill is in obtaining high speeds on downhill sections with the guidebooks using descriptors like “silky smooth”, “tight switchbacks”, “fast downhill run”, “fast and furious”, “careen”, “roller coaster trail”, “swooping turns”, “whoop-de-do’s”, and “catch air” to describe desirable and challenging trail attributes.

Mountain bikers are able to successfully share some trail systems with other users. Some motorcycle trails become undesirable when the tread becomes too rutted, too dusty, too muddy, or simply too busy. Some guidebooks advise using motorized systems on weekdays to avoid heavy motorized use periods. Mountain bike use does not always mix well with equestrian use as horses may become alarmed resulting in safety concerns. National forests, county parks, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources lands provide the most important venues for single-track trail riding.

A slew of mountain bike trail guides have been published, many of which list trails in the planning area and have consequently drawn increased use to these trails. However, many rides mentioned in the guidebooks have not proved to be popular despite the publicity. There is also much information available on the internet, usually on fat tire club websites. Guidebooks and websites list an array of settings, ranging from unpaved roads and rail-to-trail opportunities, to relatively small parks with “spaghetti systems”, to more extensive backcountry rides. The potential wilderness areas tend to help provide for this latter niche, so this analysis will focus on the availability of trail ride opportunities in a wildland setting.

In view of the fact that many areas are open to mountain biking, but a much smaller subset serve the needs of the sport, the following analysis attempts to distill those areas that are the most popular. Some trails are mentioned repeatedly, or are reported by Forest Service recreation managers as popular rides. In general, the guidebooks show substantially more mountain bike trail opportunities in western Washington than in our planning area, with the exception being the Methow Valley, which has many diverse settings to offer. (This phenomenon may be, in part, because guide books in general tend to favor showing more opportunities close to major population centers.) However, our planning area offers more long rides, and more rides into alpine terrain than western Washington. Residents of the Tri-Cities and Yakima appear to have the least mountain biking opportunities readily accessible to them, with the nearest major draw being the Hood River area.

A few places throughout the Pacific Northwest have carved out a mountain bike “niche” for themselves. Mountain bikers will take a week or a long weekend and head to the Bend area or Hood River in Oregon, Mt. St. Helens National Monument in Washington, Rossland, or Nelson British Columbia, Whistler Mountain near Vancouver, B.C., and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area or McCall in Idaho. The only portion of our planning area that even comes close to providing a regional draw is the Methow Valley, which prides itself in being a “trails community” and offers extensive options for mountain biking, but still has a relatively small volume of use from mountain bikers.

The following discussion more closely examines each Forest and subregion serving our recreational market zones.

NVUM data for the Colville National Forest indicates that 0.66 percent of primary visits to the Forest are for biking (approximately 3,600 visits). Most of these are assumed to be mountain bikers rather than road bikers. While many miles of trail on the Forest are open to mountain bikers, only a few trails hold a strong appeal for what they have to offer. Table 3 shows the trails on the Colville National Forest that receive the most use from mountain bikers.

Table 3--Trails with the Most Mountain Bike Use on the Colville National Forest

Trail	Potential	Capacity and Use Levels
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System	Wilderness Areas	
Kettle Crest North	Profanity	Low use system. Most of the use occurs going north from Sherman Pass to the Wapaloosie or Jungle Hill Trail and loops back to Sherman Pass. To a lesser degree there is use coming south on the Kettle Crest Trail from Boulder Summit. This system is receiving increased interest from bike users across the state. Most bike users are from local counties, the Spokane area, and Grand Forks, BC. Many bikers rate this as the best trail on the Forest for mountain biking.
Kettle Crest South	Bald-Snow ties to Thirteenmile and Cougar Mtn	Low use system. Most of the use occurs on the White Mountain loop from Sherman Pass. This system is receiving increased interest from bike users across the state. Most bike users are from local counties, the Spokane area, and Grand Forks, BC.
Bead Lake	n/a	Low use system. Combination of single-track and double track. Most popular trail on the Newport Ranger District. Most bike users are from the Spokane and Newport areas.
Frater Lake	n/a	Low use from mountain bikes. Motorized trail system.
Sullivan Lake Area	Hall Mountain	Low use system. Reporting 1-2 parties per week if trails are cleared. Most use is from local communities.
Grassy Top	Grassy Top	Low use system. Reporting 1-2 parties per week if trails are cleared.
Salmo-Priest Adjacent	Salmo-Priest Adjacent	Low use system. Reporting 1 party per week if trails are cleared. Most use is from local communities.

The most important areas containing mountain bike trails on the Colville National Forest include Bead Lake and the Kettle Crest, especially north of Sherman Pass in the Profanity PWA. The Colville National Forest offers additional mountain biking settings, such as the **Swan Lake area**, but this use is primarily on closed roads rather than single-track trails. The Republic Ranger District is currently exploring the possibility of building a new trail system in the **Gibraltar Mountain area** that would be designed to attract mountain bike use as well as other user types.

The internet and guidebooks list many mountain bike trail opportunities within a two-hour drive of the Greater Spokane Area (www.fttrc.org/trails). Many of the trails are fairly short. There are several natural areas within the city (such as Minnehaha Park, Beacon Hill, and South Hill) that provide a single-track setting. Several ski areas provide trail systems, some of which offer rides on chairlifts or a gondola (49-degrees North, Silver Mountain, Schweitzer, 4th of July Pass). A draft regional trails plan has been developed for Spokane County (Inland Northwest Trails Coalition 2008). This plan identifies many possible enhancements that would expand trail opportunities for mountain biking as well as road biking, hiking, and equestrian use.

Table 4 shows additional popular mountain bike trail systems within a two-hour drive of the Greater Spokane Area that are in a backcountry setting.

Table 4--Additional Popular Mountain Bike Trail Systems in a Backcountry Setting within Two Hours Driving Time of Spokane

Area	Location	Capacity and Use Levels
Riverside State Park	near Spokane	Many miles of "spaghetti" single-track trail.
Mt. Spokane	near Spokane	90 miles of "spaghetti" single-track trail.
Canfield Butte	near Coeur d'Alene, ID	20 miles high use, connects to larger

		more remote area with more capacity
Liberty Lake Park	Liberty Lake	10 miles of trail with limited capacity.
English Point	near Coeur d'Alene, ID	5 mile trail with limited capacity
Farrugut State Park	Lake Pend Oreille	7 mile trail with limited capacity
Elsie Lake area	Near Kellogg, ID	Extensive trail system "takes a week to explore"
North Fork Coeur d'Alene River	near Coeur d'Alene, ID	Extensive trail system

It appears that residents of the Colville National Forest recreational market zone have access to many mountain biking opportunities when looking to other land ownerships, and that the mountain bike trails in the Colville National Forest PWAs aren't critical to serving the market zone as a whole. However, the loss of mountain biking trails in the Profanity PWA, followed by the Bald-Snow PWA in particular would be a key loss to the mountain biking community since these are both highly favored places to ride.

Biking is 1.4 percent of the primary use on the Okanogan National Forest (5,558 visitors), and 0.2 percent of the primary use on the Wenatchee National Forest (4,262 visitors). From comparing this data, it appears that mountain biking and road biking combined has claimed a little bit more of a "niche" on the Okanogan National Forest than the Colville or the Wenatchee National Forests. The ***Sun Mountain area*** offers the most popular trail system in the valley by far, followed by the ***Sawtooth and Beaver Meadow areas***. Overall, the Methow Valley offers a high concentration of mountain biking opportunities in one valley, which would add to its allure as a tourism destination. As of 2009, the community has organized four annual major mountain bike events as well as several major road biking events. Table 5 shows trails with the most mountain bike use on the Okanogan National Forest.

Table 5--Trails with the Most Mountain Bike Use on the Okanogan National Forest

Trail System	Potential Wilderness Areas	Capacity and Use Levels
<i>Methow Valley Nordic Trails/Sun Mountain</i>	n/a	High levels of use on the system as a whole. Only a portion of the system is on National Forest. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Sawtooth Backcountry</i>	Sawtooth	Low levels of use on Eagle, Martin, Foggy Dew, and Summit trails with additional capacity in area. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Twisp River Trail</i>	Sawtooth	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Cedar Creek</i>	Sawtooth	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Cutthroat Pass</i>	Liberty Bell	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>West Fork Methow</i>	Liberty Bell	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Starvation Mountain/Lightning Creek</i>	Granite Mountain	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Buck Lake</i>	n/a	Low levels of use. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area, Northwestern Washington, and Okanogan County.
<i>Granite Mountain</i>	Granite Mountain	Very low use—about one party per week.
<i>Whistler Canyon Trail</i>	n/a	Candidate for road to trail conversion on Tonasket Ranger District and nearby private land. Low use—probably several groups per week. Highest use mountain bike trail on district.
<i>Tiffany Lake and Mountain</i>	Tiffany	Low use—about one party per week.

Guidebooks also mention ***Canyon Creek (Liberty Bell PWA)***, 8-Mile Ridge and ***Twentymile (Long Swamp PWA)***, and ***Canyon Creek Ridge (Sawtooth PWA)***, but there is no evidence suggesting these trails are attracting much mountain bike use. Also nearby is ***Bear Mountain and Buck Mountain (not in a PWA)***. Pipestone Canyon is also nearby on state land. Farther away, Steamboat Rock State Park (near Grand Coulee Dam) offers trails in a desert setting. The Okanogan National Forest has much additional capacity to absorb mountain bike use on trails that are considered popular. Loss of the “***Sawtooth Backcountry***” and the ***Starvation Mountain*** area (Granite Mountain PWA) to wilderness designation would be the most significant loss to the mountain biking community for the Okanogan National Forest, followed by the ***Twisp River and Cedar Creek Trails (Sawtooth PWA)*** and ***Cutthroat Pass (Liberty Bell PWA)***.

On the Wenatchee National Forest a few trail systems attract mountain bikers (the ***Tanuem, Devils Gulch, and the Mad Lake area***), but otherwise most of the mountain bike trail opportunities are more widely scattered across the Forest. Table 6 shows the trails on the Wenatchee National Forest that have the most mountain bike use.

Table 6--Trails with the Most Mountain Bike Use on the Wenatchee National Forest

Trail System¹	Potential Wilderness Areas	Capacity and Use Levels
<i>Kachess Ridge/Silver Creek</i>	Thorp Mountain	Low to moderate levels of mountain bike use. This is the most popular mountain bike trail on the Cle Elum Ranger District, and is generally not used as part of a larger system. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area and Kittitas County.
<i>Cooper River Trail</i>	Alpine Lakes Wilderness Study Area	Moderate level of use with additional capacity.
<i>Devils Gulch area</i>	Devils Gulch	Moderate to high levels of mountain bike use on a trail system shared with motorized users. This is the most popular mountain biking area on the Wenatchee River Ranger District. The Devils Gulch Trail itself is often referenced as the best ride in Washington. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area as well as Chelan and Douglas Counties.
<i>Freund Canyon</i>	n/a	High levels of mountain bike use on a loop trail near Leavenworth, WA.
<i>Chikamin/ Mad River</i>	Entiat-Chelan	Low levels of use but popular to a devoted following. Most users are from the Greater Seattle Area as well as Chelan and Douglas Counties. Part of a motorized trail system.
<i>Echo Ridge</i>	n/a	Low to moderate levels of use on a Nordic trail system. The most popular area to ride on the Chelan Ranger District. Most users are from the Chelan area.
<i>Devils Backbone</i>	Entiat-Chelan	Motorized system with high use from the Entiat side up Lake Creek and lower use from the Chelan side out of Twenty-five Mile Creek. Additional capacity along the Devils Backbone itself.

Guidebooks also mention a few additional single-track trail areas known to receive very low use from mountain bikers. *Lake Creek, Klone Peak, and Myrtle Lake are all in the Entiat-Chelan PWA on the Entiat Ranger District. Nason Ridge (Wenatchee River R.D.) is in the Nason Ridge PWA. Rock Creek and Basalt Ridge are in the Entiat-Chelan PWA. Jolly Mountain and West Fork Teanaway are part of a larger trail system in the Teanaway PWA. Fife's Ridge on the Naches Ranger District is partially in the Norse Peak Adjacent PWA, a one guidebook mentioned the 4x4 trails on Bethel Ridge (Bethel Ridge PWA), as well as Little Bald Mountain, which is partially in the William O. Douglas Adjacent PWA. Also on the Naches Ranger District is the Tieton Trail, which is not in a PWA.*

There are several additional important areas for mountain biking near the Wenatchee National Forest. The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust is actively acquiring lands in Sage Hills area just outside Wenatchee is developing a very popular single-track trail system that could eventually connect to national forest. The Cle Elum/Roslyn area has significant mountain biking opportunities on private timber company lands nearby. State lands near Quincy attract mountain bike use on a system of old jeep roads that are reverting to single-track trails. In Yakima a land trust is acquiring land to develop a "William O. Douglas" trail that would roughly trace the route the famous chief justice used to travel on foot from Yakima to the Cascade Crest. Their plan it to make this trail available for non-motorized uses.

¹ A couple guidebooks also mention the Quartz Creek trail area on the Naches Ranger District, but the actual level of mountain bike use here is not known.

Residents of southeastern Washington generally have farther to travel to reach popular mountain bike trails. The Hood River and Mt. Hood areas offer an array of mountain biking opportunities. Guidebooks list a handful of trails on the Wallowa-Whitman and Ochoco National Forests. Further afield is the Bend and Sisters area which offers extensive mountain biking opportunities.

Guidebooks and websites show many places to ride within a two-hour drive of the Greater Seattle Area. A number of trails in the Puget Sound area have been closed to mountain biking due to use levels and conflicts with other users. This has displaced mountain bikers to the remaining areas. In addition, designation of the Wild Sky Wilderness took away a couple options written up in guidebooks, including the Johnson Ridge Trail.

Table 7 shows single-track riding areas situated in a backcountry setting readily accessible from the Greater Seattle Area. Most of these areas are also readily accessible to residents of northwestern Washington. Additional important riding areas that are farther away include Mt. St. Helens National Monument (with 500 miles of trail) and the Whistler area near Vancouver, British Columbia. A new area for non-motorized trail use, including mountain biking, is planned for the upper Snoqualmie River valley east of North Bend that will connect old logging roads with sections of single-track trail. Mountain bikers use trails at the Summit Ski Area (Snoqualmie Pass). The Stevens Pass Ski Area is currently constructing an extensive mountain bike trail system.

Table 7--Additional Mountain Bike Trail Systems in a Backcountry setting within Two Hours Driving Time of the Greater Seattle Area

Area	Location	Capacity and Use Levels
Crystal Mountain	Crystal Mountain Ski area east of Enumclaw.	Moderate system described as "world class". Limited capacity.
Highway 410 trails.	East of Enumclaw.	Large system providing various loop options. Additional capacity.
Capitol State Forest	DNR land near Olympia.	Very large high use trail system with additional capacity.
Wallace Falls State Park	Near Sultan.	5 miles of trail with limited additional capacity.
Black Diamond Coal Mine	Near Black Diamond.	20 miles of trail.
Tolt-McDonald Park	Near Carnation.	15 miles of trail.
Tokul Creek	Near Fall City.	30 miles of trail.
Tiger Mountain	DNR land near Issaquah in King County	30 miles. Very high use trail system easily accessible to urban areas.
Middle Fork Snoqualmie Trail	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF near North Bend in King County	One long trail with limited capacity. Open on alternate days to mountain bike use.
Pilchuck Tree Farm	Private land in Snohomish County.	30 mile trail system in a working forest with obvious signs of forest practices.
Whitechuck Bench	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF near Darrington	6.7 miles of single-track.
Walker Valley	DNR land in Skagit County	Large high use system. Heavy motorized use on weekends discourages mountain bike users.
Chuckanut Area	Regional park near Bellingham in Whatcom County	High use area with limited capacity.

Area	Location	Capacity and Use Levels
Mt. Gailbraith	Whatcom County Park and DNR land	30 miles of single-track trail. This area draws visitors from afar.
Anacortes City Forest	City owned forest in Island County.	Small system of single-track trail.
Heart Lake State Park	Island County	Small system of single-track trail.
Moran State Park	Orcas Island, San Juan County	25 miles of single-track, half of which is open only from Sept. 15 to May 15.
Tahuyah State Forest	DNR land in Kitsap County	200 mile system, but heavy motorized use on weekends discourages mountain bike users.
Green Mountain State Forest	DNR land in Kitsap County	Small system of single-track trail with high use and limited capacity. Motorized system.

Mountain bike enthusiasts in the Greater Seattle Area and northwestern Washington have many options of where to pursue their sport; however, many of these areas are congested or are less attractive on weekends due to sharing the trails with motorized users. A few trails within our planning area PWAs are referenced in a Puget Sound area guidebook as being “so good they couldn’t leave them out” (Criscuolo 2003). These include *Kachess Ridge (Thorpe Mountain PWA)*, *Taneum Ridge (Manastash PWA)*, *Devils Gulch and Mission Ridge (Devils Gulch PWA)*, as well as *Chikamin Creek and Mad Lake (Entiat-Chelan PWA)*.

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